

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 8-19 and 21-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 19, 24 and 32 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments or the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 1-4, 8-18 and 25-33 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 19 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,437,981 to Newton et al. (hereafter "Newton"). The Office Action rejects claims 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Newton and Japanese Patent No. 11-143585. Further, the Office Action rejects claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Newton and U.S. Patent No. 6,377,219 to Smith. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 19. Thus, claim 19 defines patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 12.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 19 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 21-24 depend from claim 19, and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 19 and 22-23 under §102 and claims 19 and 21-24 under §103 is respectfully requested.

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### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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